

## United States Senate

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 112  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0505  
(202) 224-3553  
<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact>

December 8, 2005

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Co-Chairman  
Committee on Commerce  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Stevens and Co-Chairman Inouye:

I urge you to avoid further delay and immediately call the oil company executives back before the Commerce Committee to testify under oath.

Several weeks ago, we learned that during the first hearing, oil company executives misrepresented their corporations' involvement in Vice President Cheney's energy task force in 2001.

This week, we learned that the President of Shell Oil Company, John D. Hofmeister, now admits that he did not tell the truth regarding Shell's attempt to find a buyer in 2004 for its Bakersfield refinery. Shell's recent letter to Senator Domenici and Senator Stevens only leaves me more convinced that there was a conscious effort on the company's part to purposefully reduce the supply of gasoline, and thus further increase high gasoline prices in California.

Finally, not all of the witnesses at the hearing have responded in writing to a letter I sent them a month ago, requesting answers to my questions about their intent to help low-income Americans and to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In fact, my staff has been informed that at least one of the executives will not respond to me in writing.

Enough is enough. We need to get at the truth, and the only way to do that is to bring the oil company executives back before the Committee under oath.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

1700 MONTGOMERY STREET  
SUITE 240  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111  
(415) 403-0100

312 NORTH SPRING STREET  
SUITE 1748  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
(213) 894-5000

501 'I' STREET  
SUITE 7-600  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 448-2787

1130 'O' STREET  
SUITE 2450  
FRESNO, CA 93721  
(559) 497-5109

600 'B' STREET  
SUITE 2240  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101  
(619) 239-3884

201 NORTH 'E' STREET  
SUITE 210  
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401  
(909) 888-8525



**Shell Oil Company**

John D. Hofmeister

President

US Country Chair

One Shell Plaza

P.O. Box 2463

Houston, Texas 77252-2463

December 2, 2005

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici  
Chairman  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Chairman  
Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Domenici and Stevens:

On behalf of Shell Oil Company, I am attaching here the responses to the questions you forwarded to me on November 14, 2005.

On November 9, 2005, I appeared before your Committees in response to your invitation to provide information on the topic of energy prices and corporate profits. During my appearance, Senator Boxer made several statements concerning the former Shell refinery in Bakersfield, California, and asked me to respond. I thanked the Senator for the work that she and the Attorney General did in coming to a resolution of this issue and the fact that Shell continues to support the new owners of the refinery in a variety of ways. However, as part of my response, I stated that: "Fundamentally, we shopped the refinery around unofficially, but did not find buyers. We then decided to close it."

After review, I now realize that my remarks may have generated some confusion about the timing of Shell's actions with respect to the Bakersfield refinery. On November 13, 2003, Shell publicly announced its plans to close the refinery in October 2004. Shell's interchange with prospective buyers for the refinery began in 2004, after the plan to close the refinery was announced. The sales process continued

in 2004, ultimately resulting in a sale of the refinery in March 2005 to Big West of California LLC, a subsidiary of Flying J Inc.

At the time of these events, I was working outside of the United States in a different assignment and, therefore, was not personally overseeing the proposed closure or sale of the refinery. I was mistaken as to the time sequence of these events when I made my remarks on November 9<sup>th</sup>. I wish to eliminate any confusion resulting from my prior statement and ask that you include this letter as part of the official hearing record.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hofmeister". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Hofmeister, President  
Shell Oil Company

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer (without enclosure)